

# Hampton CITY PAGE

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## Healthy Families Partnership Expands Welcome Baby program

In the fall of 2000, Hampton's Healthy Families Partnership added Welcome Baby to its diverse array of programs. Welcome Baby is similar in concept to Welcome Wagon, except instead of a new home, a family has a new baby. The program was designed to help all Hampton parents give their children the best possible start in life.

Originally, The Welcome Baby program consisted of a personal visit and delivery of a colorful royal blue backpack filled with useful resources for new parents. In addition, the Healthy Families Partnership visitor shared information about other free family-friendly resources available in the community. While these efforts allowed us to reach the families that delivered at Sentara Careplex, we were unable to reach all of the parents of the 2200 new Hampton babies born each year. In working to find a better way to reach Hampton families delivering at other area hospitals, the Welcome Baby program took on a new look and added community partners in early April of this year.

In 2003, Governor Warner added momentum to the Welcome Baby program with the announcement of a "new parent kit." The goal of this new initiative is part of a larger plan created by the Governor called Education for a Lifetime. This initiative offered a new opportunity for Healthy Families Partnership to collaborate with Newport News Healthy Families Initiative and the Family Advocacy and New Parent Programs at Ft. Eustis, Ft. Monroe and Langley Air Force Base. This Peninsula Coalition is piloting the Governor's Tool kit for the state. Moms statewide will be receiving the Governor's tool kit beginning this summer.

In addition to the tool kit, The Peninsula Coalition is providing peninsula families with:

- A bright blue backpack
- "Stop Crying" CD
- "Shaken Baby" video and brochure (sponsored by The Exchange Club)
- American Baby gift pack
- Refrigerator magnet board (Sponsored

by Old Point National Bank)

The Governor's Tool kit will be included in the Welcome Baby backpack bringing many additional resources to new parents. The kits provide clear, easy-to-understand information about early childhood development and a toll-free telephone line that will link parents to child-care, health insurance, other community resources and parenting support. Inside the kit are 6 indexed sections (below are samples of what you can find in each section):

- **Welcome** - A letter from the Governor and First lady and instructions for using the kit
- **Caring for your Child** - A parent/child activity calendar, Caring for Your Baby book
- **Caring for Yourself** - Welcome to motherhood, ways to be a better Dad
- **Spending Time Together** - "Good Night Moon"

book, tips on reading to infants and babies

- **Staying Safe** - Buckle up Virginia information, home, hot water and fire safety information, AIDS information
- **Finding Help** - Statewide and national resource lists

The aim of Welcome Baby is to reach the approximately 6,000 families delivering on the Peninsula at Langley Air Force Base Hospital, Mary Immaculate Hospital, Riverside Regional Medical Center and Sentara Careplex. Visitors from Hampton's Healthy Families Partnership, Newport News Healthy Families Initiative, Family Advocacy and New Parent Programs at Ft. Eustis, Ft. Monroe and Langley Air Force Base will conduct Welcome Baby visits daily.

Welcome Baby is one important first step this community is taking to accomplish the mission of Hampton's Healthy Families Partnership and the goal of Governor Warner's "New Parent Kit"; to ensure that all children enter school healthy and ready to learn.

To learn more about this and other programs offered by Hampton's Healthy Families Partnership, please call 727-1300 or visit

[www.hampton.gov/healthyfamilies](http://www.hampton.gov/healthyfamilies).



## It's Neighborhood Month!

May is Neighborhood Month and there are a lot of exciting events going on throughout the neighborhoods in Hampton.

Earlier this year an essay contest sponsored by the Neighborhood Commission and Hampton's After-School program was held and kids were asked to write about why they love their neighborhood. Rachel Whiteman was the grand prize winner and Jazmine Sykes from Merrimack Elementary School had honorable mention. They were both recognized during the Neighborhood Month Kick-off Festival at city hall on Saturday, April 24, 2004.



**Essay Contest Winner**  
**WHY I LOVE MY NEIGHBORHOOD**  
By Rachel Whiteman, 2nd Grade,  
Merrimack Elementary  
After-School Program

My name is Rachel Whiteman and I live in Michael's Woods I really love my neighborhood because it is a nice place to live.

Special people live in my neighborhood. My brother's friend Anthony and my friend Briana both live around the corner from my house. My cousins live on the same street I do. My neighborhood is safe because policemen live around me. People in the Military live in my neighborhood and I think the former Mayor does too. People in my neighborhood are friendly and they wave when they go by. Our neighbors came and helped us during Hurricane Isabel.

My neighborhood is close to many places. My neighborhood is right next to Sandy Bottom Nature Park. It has lots of animals and it also has a playground. My school is also close by. My bus driver picks me and my brother up each morning. My neighborhood is close to my Grandparents house. My Grandfather comes to my house every morning on a school day and he helps my brother and I get some breakfast and catch the bus. The Air Force Base is also close to my neighborhood. Airplanes fly over my house every morning.

My neighborhood looks pretty. There are a lot of trees and that is why it is called Michael's Woods. My neighborhood looks pretty in the winter when it snows and in spring when the flowers bloom.

Now you know why I love my neighborhood. Do you love yours?

### Some Events to Check Out This Month....

**May 8**  
**Fox Hill Parade, 10 a.m.**  
Fox Hill Fair at Francis Asbury Elementary School (immediately following the parade)  
There will be games, crafts, music and food.  
For more information please call 850-5075.

**May 15**  
**Eagan Family Fun Day at the Hampton Woods Shopping Center**  
Please call Lisa Eagan at 722-7966 for more information.

**May 15 & 16**  
**Brian-Queen Recreation Association Hot Dog Dip No. 1**  
This fundraiser will be open for dogs to come and swim from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Please call Lee Crosswell for more information at 827-8380.

Please visit our website at [www.hampton.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.hampton.gov/neighborhoods) to check out more events happening in your area during Neighborhood Month!



## Hampton to Host Annual Business Appreciation Golf Tournament

The City of Hampton will join Governor Mark Warner and the Virginia Department of Business Assistance in acknowledging the contributions of companies to the local economy during Virginia Business Appreciation Week, May 16-22.

Hampton will begin the celebration with a Mayor's Proclamation presented to a local company at a City Council Meeting on May 12.

On May 13, the Annual Golf Tournament will be held at The Hamptons Golf Course, 320 Butler Farm Road. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. An evening reception is planned from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hampton History Museum in downtown.

Business interested in participating may call 757-727-6237 or e-mail: [business@hampton.gov](mailto:business@hampton.gov).



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### DID YOU KNOW...

The City has a Citizens' Court Academy that teaches Hampton citizens all about the court system? The orientation meeting for the 2004 session is May 20 at 7:00 pm. For more information call 727-6442.



# May

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 8 Saturday Night Block Party

6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.,  
Downtown Hampton  
In its seventh year, the Downtown Block Party offers, live entertainment, expanded children's area, food and beverage. For more information call 727-1570 or visit [www.hamptoneventmakers.com](http://www.hamptoneventmakers.com).

### 10 Hampton Live

11:30 a.m. on WLRT 1490 AM  
This weekly talk show features events and programs in the City of Hampton. This week's topic focuses on mosquito control, recycling tips, and street sweeping. You can tune in by radio or online at <http://racetalklive.com/home.dp>.

### 12 Hampton City Council Meeting - Budget

7:30 p.m., Council Chambers (8th Floor, City Hall).  
Also telecast on the City channel, TV-47. Final approval of the City's Budget will take place. Citizen input is encouraged.



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